

The History of Wisconsin. Volume I: From Exploration to Statehood

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could not hold his liquor as impressively as the darkly noble Daniel" [p. 428]. Finally, although the book's footnotes and index are fine, Boyer's bibliography presents only the many manuscript sources he used.

But why carp? This is a brilliantly written, magnificently paced, and beautifully organized book; and it must be considered the standard biography on the subject. Boyer has mastered the complexities and subtleties of a huge number of people and events in Brown's era. His sketches of Parker, Emerson, Jefferson Davis, Thoreau, Howe, Ruffin, Wise, Benton, Atchison, John Quincy Adams, Yancy, Thayer, William Walker, and even Brown's sons are among the best written, most perceptive and sophisticated characterizations this reviewer has ever encountered. He has gone to great lengths to be fair to Brown, to place him meaningfully into the context of the times, and above all to pursue the truth; and he has succeeded.

—Gerald W. Wolff
University of South Dakota

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The History of Wisconsin. Volume I: From Exploration to Statehood, by Alice E. Smith. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison. 1973. pp xiv, 753. Illustrations, maps, notes, essay on sources, index. \$15.00.

This splendid book on Wisconsin history is truly required reading for any sincere student of Iowa history, as it will also be for students of Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota history. It is unlikely that any person other than Miss Alice E. Smith could have brought such imposing qualifications to the task of researching and writing this book. Her career as chief of the manuscripts division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and her studies leading to a biography of James Duane Doty, a principal actor in Wisconsin territorial and early state history, gave her an unmatched familiarity with the primary materials required for

authorship. In addition, she has used the recently opened materials in the National Archives pertaining to Michigan and Wisconsin, and her book is probably the first to contain citations to the first volume of *The Territorial Papers of the United States: The Territory of Wisconsin*, edited by John Porter Bloom. (The second volume is soon to be released, followed by one on the Territory of Iowa, and it will be interesting to see what these may yield that might have been used in her book.) Of course the author has done a vast amount of reading in all the published works referring to Wisconsin and her neighbors, including scholarly publications from foreign countries. In short, the book is as nearly definitive as anything ever likely to be published, and the story is told with great depth, clarity, and grace.

For the French and British periods of occupation, Miss Smith had the solid base of two pertinent volumes by Louise Phelps Kellogg, which she generously acknowledges to the extent of saying that her own contribution is for the period of 1815-1848 only. This reviewer would venture a demurrer to this self-denying and generous statement by pointing out that her chapters on the pre-1815 period are thoroughly updated and, if the bald truth may be asserted, written with far more grace and charm than those of her distinguished predecessor.

If reasons must be given to persuade Iowa readers for this great book, one begins by pointing out the infinite relationships between Wisconsin and Iowa in their early history. Only a few examples may be cited. If one substitutes the concept of region for that of separate states, one sees at once the many points on which there can be a common treatment. The last of the four glaciers to cover "Iowaland" previously covered "Wisconsinland," and, indeed, is named the "Wisconsin" glacial epoch. From these remote and impersonal beginnings, the story moves through the era of the mound builders to the era of the modern Indians, many of whom moved from "Wisconsin" to "Iowa." There is even a common uncertainty about the origins, spelling, and pronunciation of their respective names, Iowa and Wisconsin. Incidentally, Miss Smith does not program her book so as to treat these topics in the customary introductory chapter, but weaves the pertinent material into the body of her text so as to give it added relevance and interest. The book's introductory chapter is entitled "Explo-

ration," and is followed by chapters on the French regime, the British domination, the fur trade, and Indian affairs. These chapters should convince any Iowa reader of our common heritage with the Badger state.

To be sure, the era of French imperialism in North America permanently affected the Wisconsin portion of the region far more than the Iowa portion. Yet the two intrepid explorers, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette, S. J., the first men of European descent to see Iowa and set foot on its soil, came through Wisconsin on their fact-finding mission for the Governor-General of New France. The fur trade was a vital part of the French period in Wisconsin, with depots at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, and surely the lines of the French trappers reached over into what we call "Iowa." Then the French were displaced by the British during the Seven Years War, 1756-1763, and the later alliances of the British with various Indian tribes affected both states. The "Second American Revolution" succeeded in its goal of eliminating the British as a factor in the region from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi, and thus insured that the land across the river would some day belong to the same power which planted its flag over the area of the Northwest Territory. One example of the effects of the British-Indian alliance on Iowa was the collaboration of the two during the War of 1812, a by-product of which was the abandonment of Fort Madison in 1813. Another point of contact between the two future states, so important to Iowa's future, was the Black Hawk War, fought in Illinois and Wisconsin but redounding to Iowa's benefit by virtue of the terms of the Treaty of September 21, 1832. By this treaty the United States acquired a large parcel of land from the defeated Indians, the first in the long series of treaties whereby land was acquired whereof the future Iowa could be formed.

The sequence of events leading to the formal separation of Iowa from Wisconsin is beautifully delineated by the author. First there had to be the severance of the Wisconsin country, including Iowa, from Michigan, in 1836, as a part of the Michigan state-making process. Now there could be a Territory of Wisconsin which would include the "District of Iowa" and which would use Burlington, De Moine County, District of Iowa, as a stop-gap capital for over a year until Madison could be readied for habita-

tion. In this sequence, Miss Smith's biographee, James Duane Doty, would play a large part. Just two years later the District of Iowa (plus parts of Minnesota and Dakotah) could be severed from Wisconsin and set up as the Territory of Iowa. This ended the formal connections between the two states, though their propinquity assures many economic and social relationships, as well as occasional governmental ties, for example, the Marquette, Iowa—Prairie du Chien bridge built in partnership between the two states. Incidentally, Miss Smith contributes a point which this reviewer has never met in his reading: the offer of the governorship of Iowa Territory to General Thomas S. Jesup *before* the offer to General Atkinson. Each man rejected the proffer and it went to Robert Lucas.

Another reviewer has elsewhere noted that the index is inadequate. Surely this must be the only major flaw in the book, otherwise a triumph of the bookmaker's art. The extensive and helpful Notes are at the bottom of the page, and a thorough forty-six page essay on the sources is added at the end of the book, and a useful list of territorial officers. Not least of all, the proofreading represents a minor victory for the author and the editorial staff. In the tens of thousands of words in 681 pages of text, this reviewer found (without looking for such) one trivial slip: on page 73 the word "Britians" should be, one assumes, "Britons." On page 548, note 4, the distinguished architectural historian, Rexford Newcomb, is referred to as an "architect," a correct label in some settings, perhaps, but not here where he is cited as the author of *Architecture in the Old Northwest Territory*. Two other writers on architectural history grouped with him probably deserve the same correction.

This passing allusion to a form of the arts is a reminder that Miss Smith's book is a model for all other books on state history: she not only covers the usual aspects of geography, exploration, wars, treaties, and politics and government, but there are chapters on money and banking, the public domain and internal improvements, the actual settling of the land and the beginnings of cities, under the striking title of "The First 305,000," and chapters on "Making a Living," "Cultural Beginnings," and "Religion and Social Reform." Those who expect such topics as art, literature, architectural form, religion, and social reform to

be nonexistent or of negligible importance in this early period of history, are in for a surprise and a treat.

The planned six-volume work on the history of Wisconsin is off and running with the appearance of this book. The remaining volumes have been announced for publication in 1975-1976, and they are eagerly awaited. If the other five are within hailing distance of the quality and style of Miss Smith's *magnum opus*, the state of Wisconsin and readers of history everywhere will be fortunate indeed. Those who are charged with the keeping of Iowa history should take heed and follow the Wisconsin example as closely as possible; in the meanwhile, every school, college, and public library in Iowa should invest in this nearly perfect book.

—Leland L. Sage
Cedar Falls

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The Price of Vision: The Diary of Henry A. Wallace, 1942-1946,
edited with an introduction by John Morton Blum. Boston:
Houghton Mifflin Co. 1973. pp. x, 707, index. \$15.00

In recent years, perhaps because of the Vietnam conflict and the waning of the Cold War, historians have become increasingly intrigued by the question of what happened to American liberalism during and immediately after World War II. The publication of this diary, therefore, is a welcome addition to the rapidly expanding literature on the topic. Moreover, Yale historian John Morton Blum's editing, particularly his copious footnotes, greatly enhances the usefulness of the diary as an historical document. Even though he has included only about twenty-five percent of the diary Henry A. Wallace rigorously kept between 1942 and 1946—now deposited in the Special Collections Department of the University of Iowa Libraries and soon to be opened to other researchers—it is unlikely that many historians will find it necessary to go beyond what is contained in *The Price Of Vision*.

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